Subject: Please Save Jordon Lake
From: Lynn Ogden <LynnOgden@infomatters.com>
Date: Mon, 2 Jul 2007 17:25:43 -0400
To: rich.gannon@ncmail.net

Dear Mr. Gannon,

Polluted by excess nutrients, Jordan Lake is subject to algae blooms and fish kills and serves less well as a site for recreation, a habitat for wildlife, and a source for drinking water for the people of the Triangle. The new rules proposed for the lake would address all the sources of nitrogen and phosphorus, including residences, industries, and agriculture. I support the major goals of these rules. But I feel particularly strongly that nitrogen reductions from the major wastewater treatment plants should begin in 2011, as originally recommended, instead of 2016.

The Clean Water Responsibility Act (H.R. 515) was passed in 1997. If implementation is not required until 2016, that will mean that amelioration will have taken almost 20 years, during which time nutrients will have continued pouring into the lake. Given that the lake was known to be vulnerable to nutrient pollution almost immediately after the dam was closed to form the lake, the waste water treatment facilities in the watershed have had ample warning about the need to upgrade facilities, and some have begun to do so. Therefore there should be no more delay. All the plants should be required to come into compliance by the original date of 2011.

o We should require that wastewater treatment plants upstream from the lake reduce nitrogen by 2011. A proposal that would allow water treatment plants to wait until 2016 to make deeper reductions in nitrogen is far too slow. Many cities have worked hard already to improve wastewater treatment--phosphorus reductions are in the works already, and scheduled to take effect by 2009. We can do more.

o In addition, I support controls on polluted runoff from existing development. Scientific models show Jordan Lake will never be healthy unless runoff from current development is reduced. These controls consist of various sizes of biological and engineered filters that slow down the flow of rain water, filter out soil suspended in it, and allow natural processes to clean up the water before it flows into a stream. They can reduce the amount of nutrients-as well as other pollutants-flowing into the lake.
The purposes of Lake Jordon include flood control, recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and water supply. The water supply, recreation, fishing and wildlife habitats are spoiled by nutrient pollution; i.e. eutrophy.

The Environmental Management Commission should approve strong new rules for the lake without delay.

Sincerely,

R. Lynn Ogden
333 Carolina Meadows Villa
Chapel Hill, NC 27517